

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

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INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0997

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT AO

SUBJECT: FNLA INSULTS JUNTA

LOURENCO MARQUES FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A CONVERSATION ON NOVEMBER 19 WITH SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL INFORMATION, COMMANDER JESUINO, ON MPLA INTRANSIGENCE, HE TOLD ME THE MPLA IS COMING AROUND, BUT THAT A NEW AND SERIOUS PROBLEM HAS ARISEN WITH THE FNLA.

2. ACCORDING TO JESUINO, WHO HAS THE RANK OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY, OR SENIOR MINISTER, AND WHO IS IN THE INNER COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT, THE ANGOLAN JUNTA IS FURIOUS ABOUT AN FNLA COMMUNIQUE BROADCAST OVER RADIO ZAIRE ON NOVEMBER 16 WHICH CALLS THE JUNTA A PACK OF BANDITS, AMONG OTHER EPITHETS.

3. JESUINO EMPHASIZED THAT IN THE INTERESTS OF FAIRNESS AND PEACE IN ANGOLA THE JUNTA HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT FNLA DESIRES; THE JUNTA HAS REMAINED ABOVE PARTY OR FACTION AND FNLA,
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ALONG WITH OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS IN ANGOLA, HAS RECEIVED

EQUITABLE TREATMENT. NOW, SAID JESUINO, IT APPEARS THAT FNLA HAS CHOSEN TO BELIEVE TWO MYTHS: ONE, THAT THE JUNTA FAVORS THE MPLA AND IS DOING ALL IN ITS POWER TO ELEVATE THAT ORGANIZATION TO A SUPREME POSITION; AND TWO, THAT JUNTA PRESIDENT VICE ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO WILL PRESENTLY BE REMOVED. HE SAID THOSE WHO BELIEVE THE LISBON-LUANDA AXIS HAS BEEN BROKEN ARE OFF THE MARK AND THEY NOT ONLY DO THEMSELVES A DISSERVICE, BUT MAKE MORE DIFFICULT THE JOB OF GETTING ON WITH DECOLONIZATION.

4. JESUINO CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IF THE FNLA DOES NOT ISSUE A RETRACTION OF ITS INSULTING COMMUNIQUE THE JUNTA WILL BE FORCED TO RECONSIDER ITS POLICY OF EVEN-HANDED TREATMENT FOR ALL THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS; IF THE FNLA DOES NOT WANT TO DEAL FAIRLY AND OPENLY WITH THE JUNTA, THE JUNTA CANNOT CONTINUE TO GIVE ITS CONFIDENCE TO THE FNLA.

5. I HAVE NOT SEEN OR HEARD THE COMMUNIQUE IN QUESTION, BUT IF JESUINO IS ANGERED THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE ADMIRAL AND THE JUNTA MEMBERS ARE ALSO UPSET. THE ADMIRAL HAS A TEMPER AND IS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE TO PUBLIC CRITICISM. I WILL BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY LIGHT KINSHASA CAN SHED ON THIS MATTER. IT MAY BE THAT THE COMMUNIQUE IN QUESTION DID NOT HAVE THE APPROVAL OF FNLA LEADERSHIP. IF THAT IS THE CASE, I WILL PASS THE WORD AND THAT SHOULD CALM THINGS DOWN. IF THE FNLA HAS EMBARKED UPON A POLICY OF SLANDERING THE ADMIRAL AND HIS COLLEAGUES ON THE JUNTA THE AUTHORITIES HERE MAY VERY WELL BEGIN TO FAVOR MPLA.

6. WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF TROUBLEMAKERS, JESUINO SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD PROOF THAT THE WHITE BUSINESSMEN WHO WERE ARRESTED ON NOVEMBER 17 AND DISPATCHED TO LISBON FOR AN INQUIRY WERE PLANNING TO UNDERMINE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE JUNTA THROUGH A SERIES OF STRIKES AND STOPPAGES SIMILAR TO THAT CARRIED OUT BY THE TRUCK DRIVERS A FEW DAYS AGO. (LUANDA 970).
KILLORAN

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